ARMY HISTORY AND HERITAGE

General Paul E. Funk II, United States Army

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Foreword by General Paul E. Funk II, United States Army

Center of Military History
United States Army
Washington, D.C. 2022

FOREWORD

This book is dedicated in honor and in memory of General William W. Hartzog, the ninth commanding general of the Training and Doctrine Command and a historian at heart. He wrote the initial version of this book, *American Military Heritage*, "to provide a reference that could help drill instructors and other Army leaders instill an appreciation for the lore and traditions that make up the Army's rich heritage."

The study and understanding of military history and appreciation of our proud and rich heritage are critical to personal and professional growth for soldiers. They are the foundation that allows us to expand our expertise within the profession of arms. They lay the cornerstone for our personal contribution to our Army, and give us the means to leave it in a better place than we found it.

We stand on the shoulders of the exceptional men and women, who, for nearly 250 years, have made history and forged our shared heritage. Our history is our incredible legacy. It connects the current generation of soldiers to our departed but not forgotten brethren. It demonstrates that no matter how much time has passed, we continue to be the most lethal and powerful Army in the world. History reminds us that we serve for something far greater than ourselves and that we are willing to endure incredible sacrifices for the love of our great nation.

A professional Army continuously strives for excellence and self-improvement. Learning from significant historical events can be painful, informative, and incredibly inspirational. Let us strive to learn from the lessons of those proud warriors who came before us, so that we never need to relive the trials of the past.

Victory Starts Here!

Fort Eustis, Virginia
7 January 2022

GENERAL PAUL E. FUNK II
17th Commanding General,
U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command

CHAPTER 1

FOUNDING THE NATION: THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR THROUGH THE WAR OF 1812

by Mark L. Bradley

The American military tradition dates back to the early seventeenth century. The first English settlers had to defend themselves against an array of enemies: from rival foreign powers, criminals, and dissidents, to Native American tribes that were hostile in the face of encroachment into their territory. The colonists lacked the resources to support a standing army, so they relied on a militia system that required all men of military age to defend their colony when needed. For service beyond those borders, colonists had to rely on volunteers. These ad hoc units sometimes fared poorly in expeditions in the wilderness against Native Americans or French soldiers. Despite flaws, the militia system proved its worth when war erupted in Massachusetts in the spring of 1775. It was the New England militia, after all, who fought British regulars in the initial battles at Lexington, Concord, and Bunker Hill.

When the Second Continental Congress met at Philadelphia in June 1775, the delegates saw the need for a permanent military force to contend with the British army. On 14 June, Congress adopted the New England militia—which at the time was besieging British-held Boston—as its own. It also authorized the raising of ten rifle companies from Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia to serve as light infantry in the "American continental army" for one year, making 14 June 1775 the Army's birthday. The Continental Army provided the nucleus around which local militia units would form. Congress chose a Virginian, George Washington, as commander in chief. Washington's strength of character, resourcefulness, and experience as a militia officer in the French and Indian War would serve the patriots well in the difficult years ahead. Under Washington's

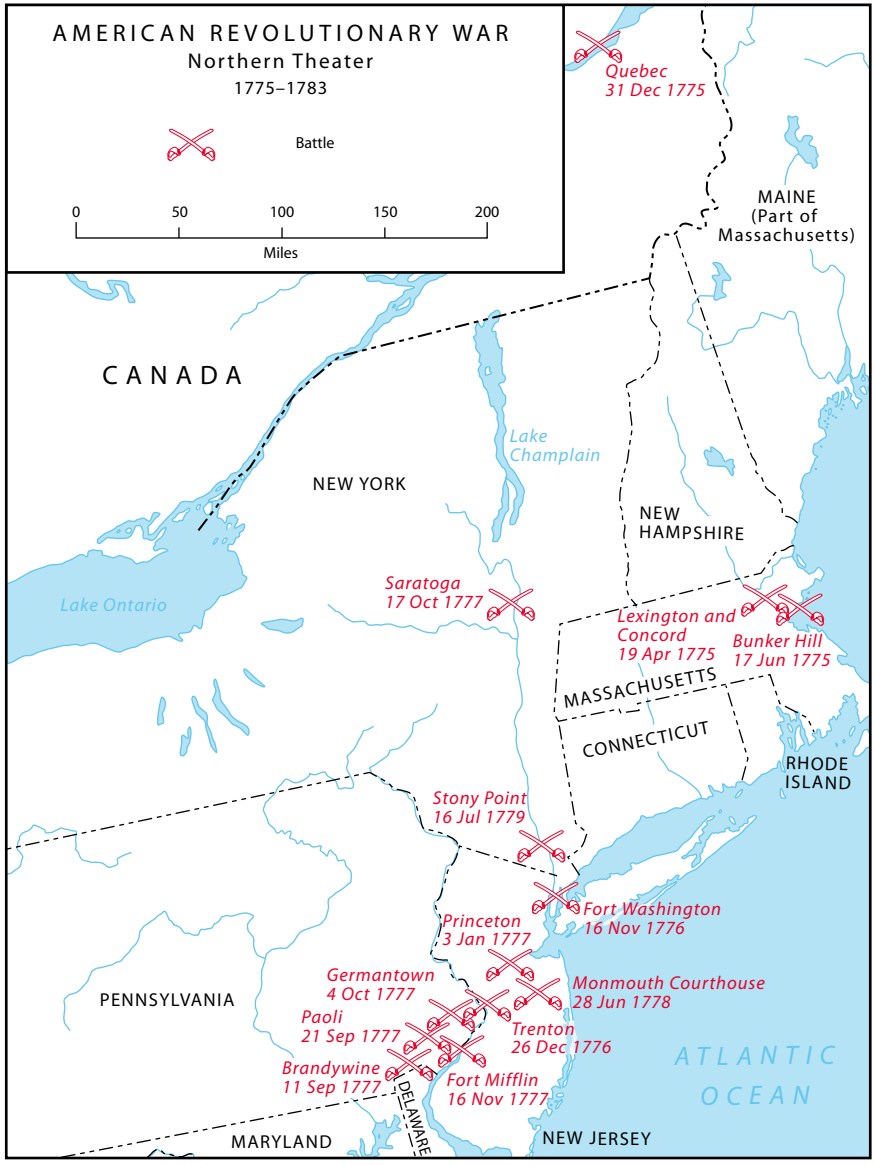
George Washington at Princeton by Charles Willson Peale, 1779
(*Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts*)

The Camp of the American Army at Valley Forge, February, 1778 by Edwin A. Abbey, 1911, shows Baron Friedrich von Steuben drilling American troops. (*Pennsylvania State Capitol*)

leadership, the Continental Army compelled the British to evacuate Boston on 17 March 1776, due in large part to the addition of cannons and other artillery captured from Fort Ticonderoga in upper New York and hauled overland for hundreds of miles to aid the siege.

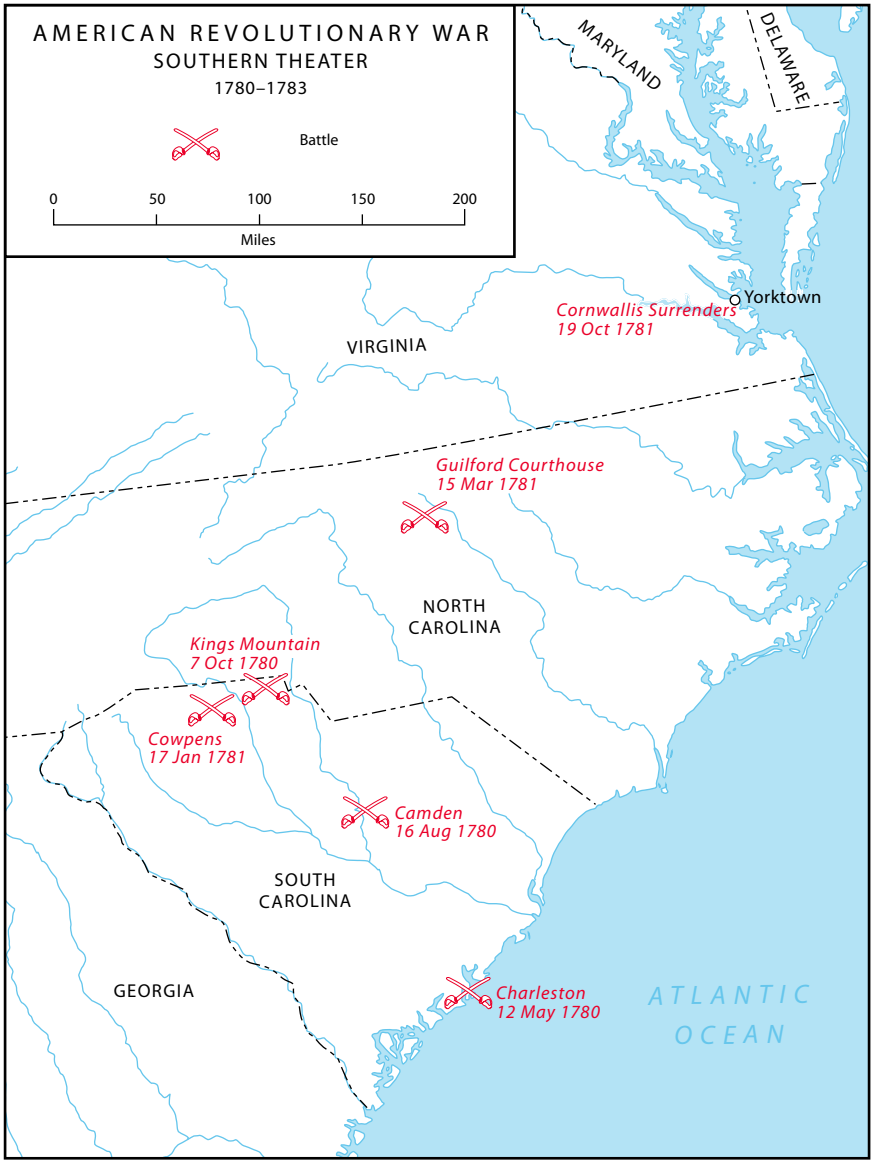
On 4 July 1776, Congress approved the Declaration of Independence, transforming the war from a struggle for colonists' rights under British rule to the defense of a new nation. Washington knew that the destruction of the Continental Army might well result in the collapse of the American cause. He sought battles that did not put the Army's survival at risk, yet offered the possibility of victory to bolster patriot morale and gain foreign support. In the fall of 1776, Washington kept his Army intact after the loss of New York City, retreating across New Jersey and into Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, patriot spirits were low after the retreat. Washington also knew many enlistments would expire at the end of the year. He decided that the situation called for desperate measures. Crossing the Delaware River on Christmas night, the Continental Army surprised and overwhelmed the enemy garrison—composed of Hessian mercenaries—at Trenton, New Jersey. Eight days later, the patriots defeated a British force at nearby Princeton. Washington's gamble paid off handsomely; morale improved and reenlistments rose in the wake of the two improbable victories.

The revitalized Revolution withstood the loss of the American capital of Philadelphia in September 1777, in what proved to be a hollow British



Map 1

victory. One month later, British Lt. Gen. John Burgoyne surrendered his army at Saratoga, New York, to his American counterpart, Maj. Gen. Horatio L. Gates. Burgoyne's capitulation induced France to enter the war on the patriots' side. Spain and the Netherlands later joined the French.



Map 2

With Britain mired in a worldwide struggle, the Americans needed only to maintain an army in the field to prevail, but the outcome remained far from certain. Soldiers suffered terribly in the bitter winter of 1777–1778 in their encampments at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. During this ordeal, however,

Nathanael Greene by Charles Willson Peale, 1783 (*Independence National Historical Park*)

Maj. Gen. Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben, a Prussian nobleman and soldier of fortune, taught Washington's Continentals the skills they needed to meet the British regulars on equal terms. He also compiled a training manual, or "Blue Book," that retains a direct link to *The Soldier's Blue Book* of today. In June 1778, the well-trained Americans proved their mettle in the Battle of Monmouth Courthouse, New Jersey.

Concluding that offensive operations in the southern theater offered the best hope of success, the British in 1780 captured the port city of Charleston, South Carolina, and then defeated a patriot army inland at the Battle of Camden that summer. Washington sent a trusted lieutenant, Maj. Gen. Nathanael Greene, south to salvage the deteriorating situation. In early 1781, Greene and his subordinates fought a campaign of attrition, routing a small British force at Cowpens, South Carolina, and led the bulk of British general Lord Charles Cornwallis's command on a futile chase through North Carolina. Though defeated at Guilford Courthouse, Greene left the British army too battered to continue the campaign. Cornwallis headed north to Virginia, where a joint Franco-American force led by Washington compelled him to surrender at Yorktown in October 1781. Disheartened by this debacle and exhausted by over six years of war, the British government agreed to make peace and to recognize American independence. The 1783 Treaty of Paris formally ended the Revolutionary War.

In the 1790s, after the ratification of the Constitution, the new American nation faced internal threats such as the Whiskey Rebellion in western Pennsylvania. Now president, George Washington restored order by deploying federalized militia against protestors who threatened government tax collectors. After two failed expeditions in 1790 and 1791 to pacify Native American tribes in the Ohio Valley, President Washington turned to Maj. Gen. Anthony Wayne to lead a third attempt. Protracted

Map 3

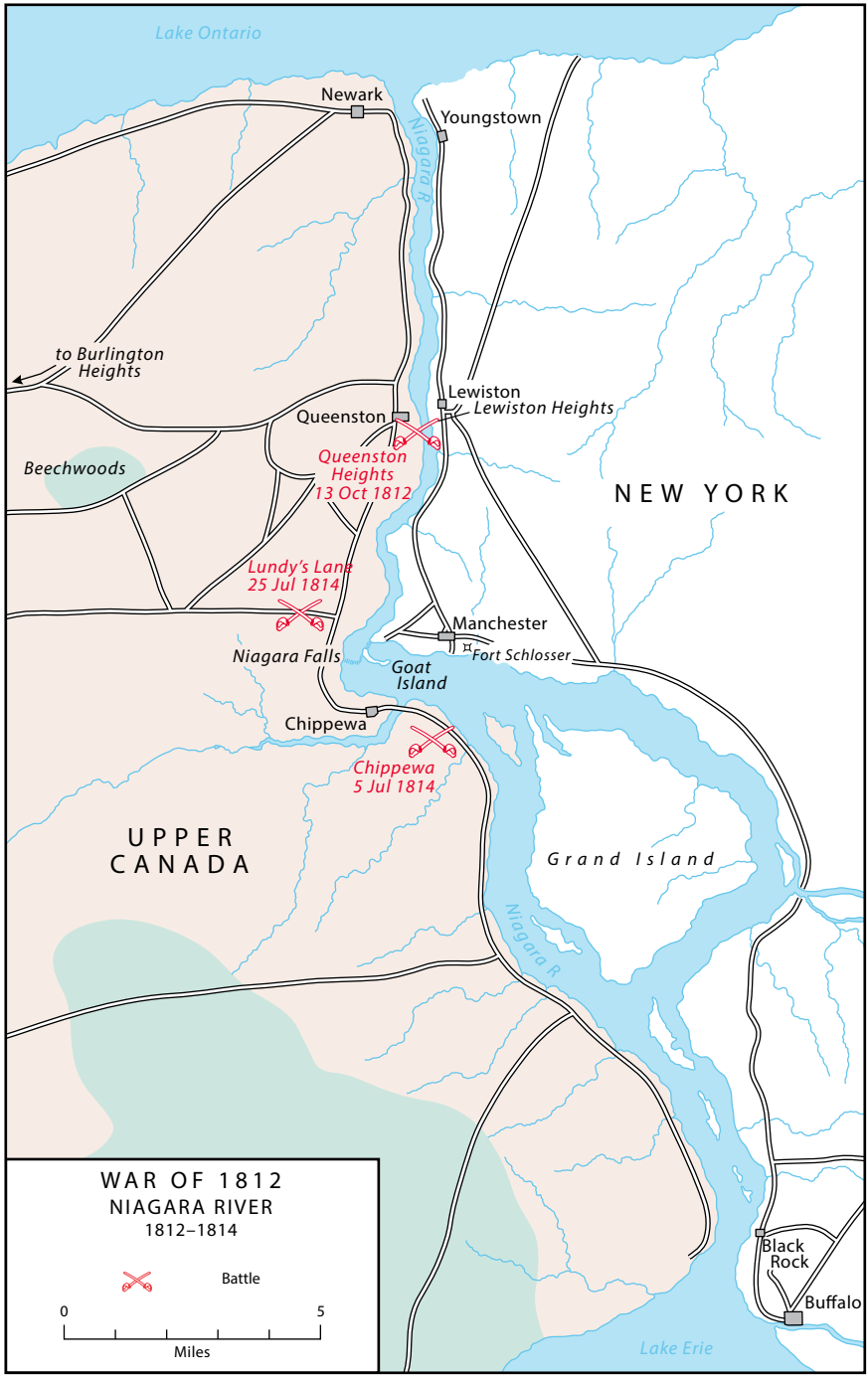
frontier peace negotiations enabled Wayne to devote two years to training his regulars into a lethal fighting force. At the Battle of Fallen Timbers in August 1794, he won a striking victory, opening the lands of Ohio and much of what would become Indiana to settlement. Wayne's success shifted the ongoing militia vs. standing army debate in favor of regular troops led by professionals, especially when contrasted with the militia's role in Harmar's Defeat (1790) and St. Clair's Defeat (1791). After Fallen Timbers, the great Shawnee leader Tecumseh tried to organize a resistance to the United States' expansion, but a force of regulars and militia under the capable governor of the Indiana Territory, William Henry Harrison, dealt a mortal blow to his hopes at the Battle of Tippecanoe in 1811.

Meriwether Lewis by Charles Willson Peale, 1807 (*Independence National Historical Park*)

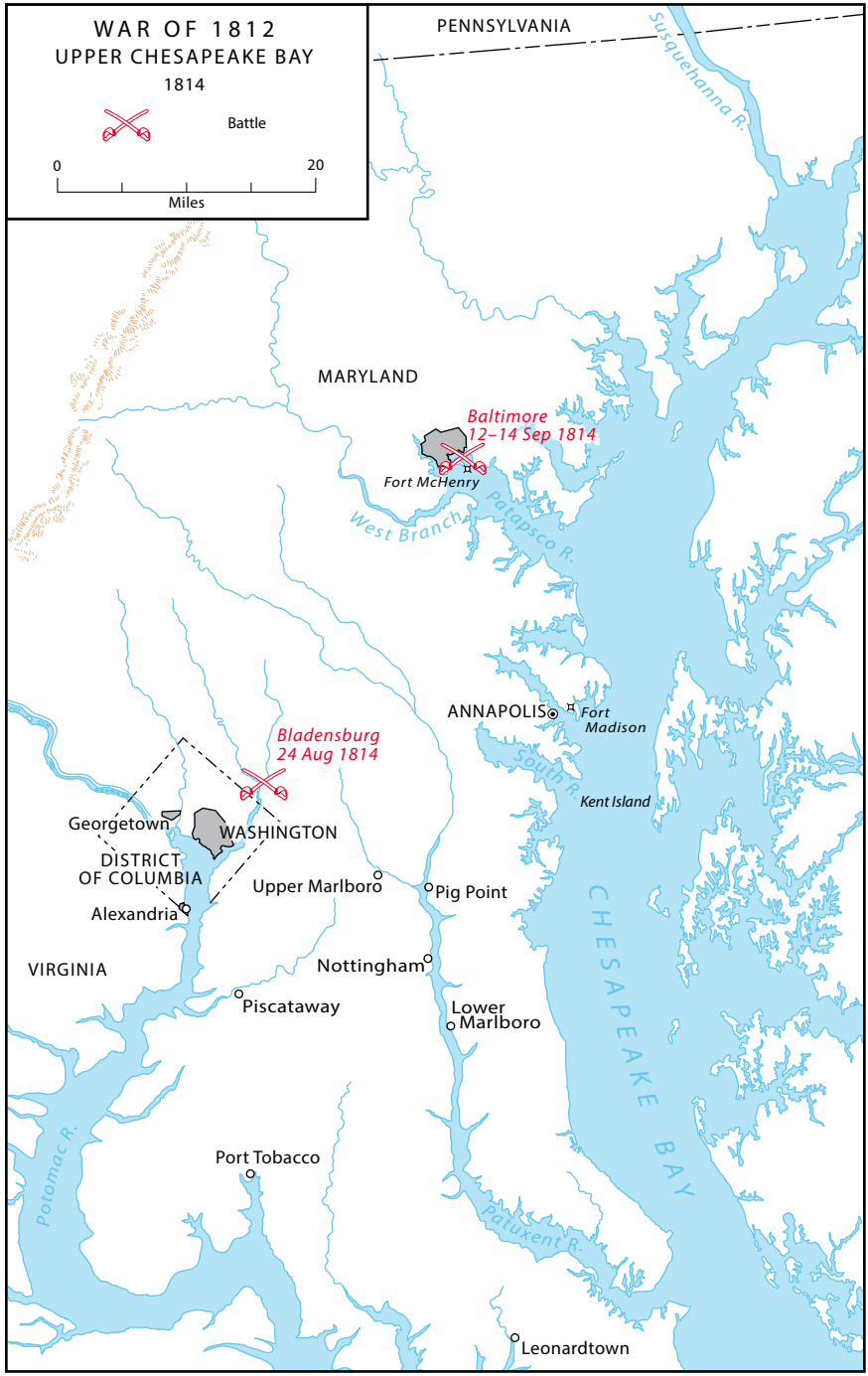
William Clark by Charles Willson Peale, 1807 (*Independence National Historical Park*)

In 1803, the Louisiana Purchase transferred a vast region west of the Mississippi River from France to the United States. To gather information on the new domain and to assert American authority over it, President Thomas Jefferson sent an Army expedition, the Corps of Discovery led by Capt. Meriwether Lewis and Lt. William Clark, to explore the continent west to the Pacific Ocean. After two years, Lewis and Clark returned to St. Louis, Missouri, having traveled 7,689 miles. The explorers gathered invaluable geographic and scientific data, and greatly strengthened the United States' claim to the Pacific Northwest. Their odyssey was but the first of many such expeditions to open the American West.

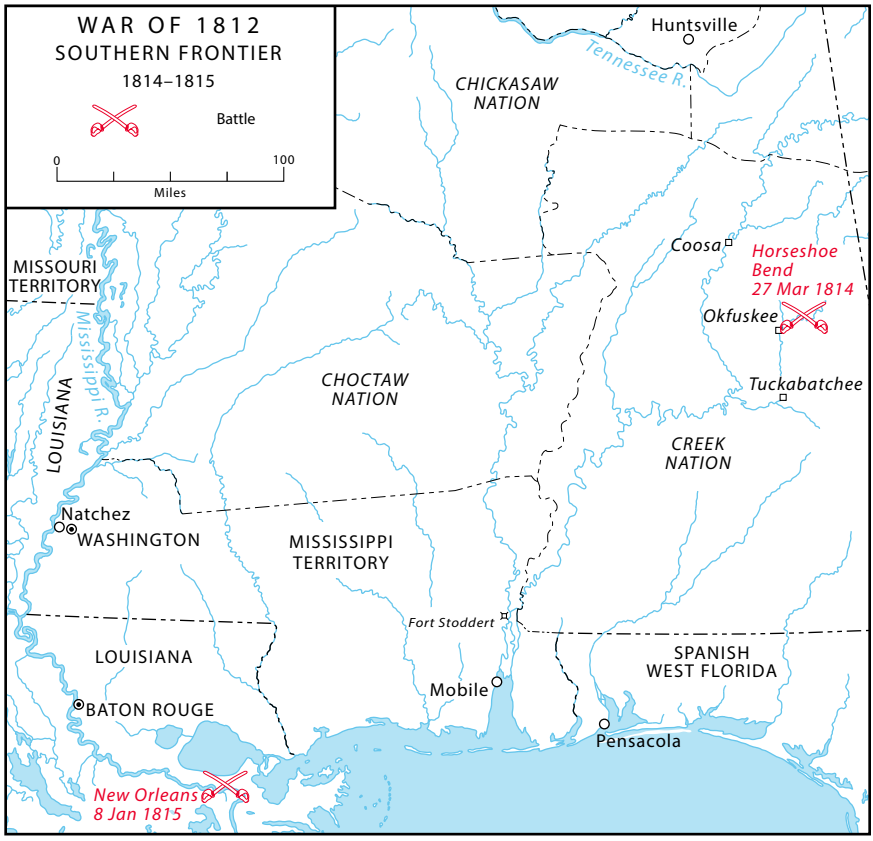
Given the precarious existence of the early Republic, caught between often-hostile native tribes and the global European conflicts of the French Revolution (1792–1802) and the Napoleonic Wars (1803–1815) that threatened to engulf the United States, the Army focused on its main mission—defending the nation against internal and external threats. Soldiers began construction of coastal fortifications and occupied western forts after the British garrisons belatedly withdrew from them. Even so, ongoing British influence in North America was evident in support for


Lake Ontario
Newark
Youngstown
Niagara R.
to Burlington Heights
Lewiston
Lewiston Heights
Queenston
Queenston Heights 13 Oct 1812
Beechwoods
NEW YORK
Lundy's Lane 25 Jul 1814
Manchester
Fort Schlosser
Niagara Falls
Goat Island
Chippewa
Chippewa 5 Jul 1814
UPPER CANADA
Grand Island
Niagara R.
WAR OF 1812
NIAGARA RIVER
1812–1814
Battle
0
5
Miles
Black Rock
Buffalo
Lake Erie

Map 4


WAR OF 1812
UPPER CHESAPEAKE BAY
1814
Battle
0
20
Miles
PENNSYLVANIA
Susquehanna R.
MARYLAND
Baltimore
12–14 Sep 1814
Fort McHenry
West Branch
Patapsco R.
ANNAPOLIS
Fort
Madison
Kent Island
South R.
Bladensburg
24 Aug 1814
Georgetown
WASHINGTON
DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA
Upper Marlboro
Pig Point
Alexandria
VIRGINIA
Nottingham
Piscataway
Lower
Marlboro
CHESAPEAKE BAY
Potomac R.
Port Tobacco
Patuxent R.
Leonardtown

Map 5



Map 6

Tecumseh's ambitions. What most outraged Americans was the British practice of kidnapping American sailors for forced service in the Royal Navy as it battled Napoleonic France.

Americans' ambition for territorial expansion and their anger at British policies led to a second conflict against Great Britain—the War of 1812. Early on, the Army suffered through mismanagement in the War Department, incompetent generals, and laws that limited most militia members to serving only within their respective states. In 1813 and 1814, however, the Army sought to remedy the situation by reorganizing the War Department, appointing competent field commanders, and recruiting volunteer soldiers with incentives such as cash and land bounties. These reforms soon began to pay off. In July 1814, near the Canadian village of Chippewa (today known as Chippawa), American troops under Brig. Gen. Winfield Scott stood their ground against a comparable number of British

Battle of Chippewa, DA Poster 21–39, by H. Charles McBarron Jr. (*Army Art Collection*)

soldiers, reportedly prompting the enemy commander to exclaim, "Those are regulars, by God!" Today, ten Army infantry battalions perpetuate the lineages of Regular Army regiments that fought at the Battle of Chippewa, including the 1st, 2d, and 4th Battalions of the 6th Infantry Regiment, whose motto is "Regulars, by God!"

Two months later, the Army's spirited defense of Fort McHenry near Baltimore inspired Francis Scott Key to pen "The Star-Spangled Banner." On Christmas Eve 1814, American and British diplomats in Belgium signed the Treaty of Ghent, ending the war. Unaware of the peace settlement, Maj. Gen. Andrew Jackson fought and soundly defeated British forces in the Battle of New Orleans on 8 January 1815. Although the United States had failed to conquer Canada, the Army's conduct during the latter stages of the war earned respect abroad and inspired a newfound sense of national pride and confidence.

Free Men of Colour and Choctaw Indian Volunteers at New Orleans, Louisiana, by H. Charles McBarron Jr. (*Army Art Collection*)

General George Washington Resigning His Commission by John Trumbull, 1826
(*U.S. Capitol*)

TIMELINE

French and Indian War (1754–1763)

Revolutionary War (1775–1783)

1775

19 April: Battles of Lexington and Concord
14 June: Formation of the Continental Army—Birthday of the U.S. Army
15 June: Congress appoints George Washington commander in chief
17 June: Battle of Bunker Hill
31 December: Battle of Quebec

1776

17 March: British evacuate Boston
4 July: Declaration of Independence adopted
16 November: Battle of Fort Washington
26 December: Battle of Trenton

1777

3 January: Battle of Princeton
11 September: Battle of Brandywine
21 September: Battle of Paoli
4 October: Battle of Germantown
17 October: British surrender at Saratoga
16 November: Battle of Fort Mifflin

1778

February–June: Von Steuben trains the Continental Army at Valley Forge
28 June: Battle of Monmouth Courthouse

1779

16 July: Battle of Stony Point
1 December 1779–23 June 1780: Continental Army camps at Morristown

1780

12 May: British capture Charleston
16 August: Battle of Camden
7 October: Battle of King's Mountain

1781

17 January: Battle of Cowpens
15 March: Battle of Guilford Courthouse
19 October: Cornwallis surrenders at Yorktown

1783

March: Newburgh Conspiracy
3 September: American and British commissioners sign the Treaty of Paris, ending the Revolutionary War and establishing American independence
23 December: General Washington resigns his commission, affirming civilian supremacy over the military

1790
Harmar's Defeat

1791
St. Clair's Defeat

1794
20 August: Battle of Fallen Timbers

1795
Springfield Armory begins production of the Model 1795 musket, becoming the chief producer of Army shoulder arms

1802
U.S. Military Academy established at West Point, New York

1804–1806
Lewis and Clark Expedition

1805–1807
Zebulon M. Pike Expeditions

1811
7 November: Battle of Tippecanoe

War of 1812 (1812–1815)

1812
13 October: Battle of Queenston Heights

1813
10 September: Battle of Lake Erie
5 October: Battle of the Thames

1814
27 March: Battle of Horseshoe Bend
5 July: Battle of Chippewa
25 July: Battle of Lundy's Lane
24 August: Battle of Bladensburg
12–14 September: Battle of Baltimore
24 December: Treaty of Ghent signed

1815
8 January: Battle of New Orleans

First Seminole War (1817–1818)

Major Robert Rogers, Commander in Chief of the Indians in the Back Settlements of America by Johann Martin Will, 1776 (*Anne S. K. Brown Military Collection, Brown University Library*)

PEOPLE, ARTIFACTS, AND EVENTS

Maj. Robert Rogers was an American frontier soldier who raised and commanded an elite force, known as Rogers's Rangers, during the French and Indian War. Adapting Native American tactics, Rogers's Rangers conducted raids deep in French territory, scouted enemy positions, and served as light infantry, screening British regulars. The 600-soldier unit gained notoriety as the most colorful command in the British-American army.

In 1757, Rogers compiled a list of twenty-eight "Rules of Ranging" as a training manual for recruits; his teaching inspires the U.S. Army to this day. A simplified version of the "Rules" instructs current U.S. Army Rangers. Rogers also formulated nineteen "Standing Orders" that appear after the "Ranger Creed" in every edition of the *Ranger Handbook*. The "Orders" include such direct wisdom as, "Don't never take a chance you don't have to."

Although Rogers went on to command a Loyalist unit in the British army during the Revolutionary War, two former Rangers, John Stark and Moses Hazen, served as generals in the Continental Army.

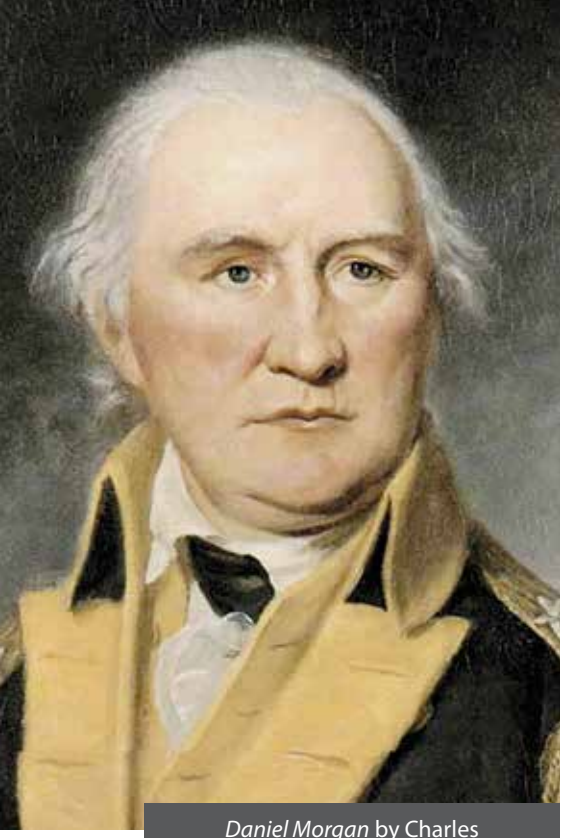
The March to Valley Forge, December 19, 1777 by William B. T. Trego, 1883
(*Museum of the American Revolution*)

General George Washington was the commander in chief of the Continental Army and the first president of the United States. He was—to quote one of his biographers—"the indispensable man." Although a less-than-stellar tactician, Washington understood strategy. He managed to keep the Continental Army intact for eight years despite battlefield defeats and harsh winters spent at Valley Forge and Morristown. His victories at Trenton and Princeton brought fresh hope when many thought the patriot cause appeared lost. Aware of his own limitations, Washington surrounded himself with able individuals such as soldier-scholar Henry Knox, brilliant young staff officer Alexander Hamilton, and Quaker-turned-warrior Nathanael Greene, who proved equal to any assignment, whether as a combat commander or as the Continental Army's chief logistician.

Anthony Wayne by James Sharples Sr., 1796 (*Independence National Historical Park*)

Maj. Gen. Anthony Wayne received his nickname—"Mad Anthony"—because of his fiery temper and aggressive leadership style. In 1776, he commanded the 4th Pennsylvania Regiment in the Canadian expedition, and in 1777, he led the Pennsylvania Continental Line in the Battles of Brandywine and Germantown. After a British nighttime surprise attack on his position at Paoli, an official inquiry found that he had made a tactical error. Enraged at the slight to his reputation, Wayne requested a court-martial, which acquitted him of any wrongdoing. On 28 June 1778, Wayne's command was in the vanguard at the Battle of Monmouth Courthouse, and it held the center of the American line at the close of the fighting. At Stony Point, New York, on 16 July 1779, Wayne launched a midnight bayonet assault on the British fort. During hand-to-hand fighting, a musket ball grazed Wayne's head, stunning him. He soon recovered and watched as his troops overpowered the enemy garrison, avenging the defeat at Paoli.

In the summer of 1781, General Washington transferred Wayne and his command to the southern theater, where he remained for the rest of the war. Afterward, he settled in Georgia, became a planter, and ran for Congress. Though elected, he had to resign due to voting irregularities, and his attempt at farming left him destitute. However, his country still needed him. In 1792, President Washington recalled Wayne to duty in order to defeat Native American tribes blocking settlement of the Northwest Territory. He thus became the senior officer of the U.S. Army, assuming command of the Legion of the United States and instituting a rigorous training program for his recruits. Wayne's meticulous planning and preparation resulted in a decisive victory over a coalition of Native Americans and Canadians at Fallen Timbers in present-day Ohio on 20 August 1794.



Daniel Morgan by Charles Willson Peale, c. 1794 (*Independence National Historical Park*)

Brig. Gen. Daniel Morgan began his military career during the French and Indian War as a wagoner, hauling supplies for the British army—hence his nickname, "The Old Wagoner." During that time, he ran afoul of a British officer, who ordered that Morgan receive 500 lashes on his bare back—a vicious and often fatal punishment. Morgan not only survived the ordeal, but he also liked to joke that the British miscounted and gave him only 499 lashes.

Morgan joined the Continental Army in 1775 and became captain of a company of riflemen. In December, the British captured him along with most of his command in the Battle of Quebec. After his exchange, Morgan received a promotion to colonel. In 1777, he played a crucial role in the defeat of the British army at Saratoga. Over the next two years, he grew frustrated as his superiors passed him up for promotion and Morgan left the Army. In the fall of 1780, the strategic situation in the South had grown so dire that Morgan put country before personal advancement and rejoined the Army. Soon afterward, he received his long-awaited promotion to brigadier general.

On 17 January 1781, Morgan commanded the patriot force in the Battle of Cowpens. It was a tactical masterpiece made possible by Morgan's keen understanding of his British opponent, Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton, and his adroit handling of the mixed force of patriot militia and Continental regulars. When a misunderstood order caused a portion of the Continentals to fall back, Morgan alertly directed the regulars to turn about and fire into the faces of the oncoming British. The unexpected volley shattered the enemy line, resulting in one of the most lopsided British defeats of the war. Cowpens proved to be Morgan's last battle, but it helped turn the tide of the conflict in the southern theater in the Americans' favor.

Nineteenth-century portrait of Joseph Plumb Martin and his wife, Lucy
(*Stockton Springs [Maine] Historical Society*)

Just fifteen when he enlisted in the Connecticut state militia in 1776, **Sgt. Joseph Plumb Martin** served with the Continental Army in the campaigns around New York City and on the retreat through New Jersey. His enlistment expired in December 1776, and he returned home, shortly before the Battles of Trenton and Princeton. In April 1777, after a restless winter spent in Connecticut, the sixteen-year-old veteran reenlisted in the Continental Army for the duration of the war. He went on to fight in the Battles of Germantown and Monmouth Courthouse and rose to the rank of sergeant. At Yorktown, he commanded a detachment of sappers, or combat engineers, whose siege works helped to defeat the British.

In 1830, the seventy-year-old Martin penned a memoir of his service in the Continental Army. He describes the terror of combat, the tedium of camp life, and those constant companions—hunger and fatigue. His recollections provide a rare glimpse into the life of the common soldier under Washington.

Margaret Corbin at the Battle of Fort Washington, November 16, 1776
by Don Troiani, 2011 (*Courtesy of Don Troiani*)

In 1775, **Margaret Cochran Corbin** accompanied her husband, John Corbin, an artillerist in the Pennsylvania militia, on campaign with the Continental Army. She most likely cooked, washed clothes, and cared for the sick and wounded, typical occupations of soldiers' wives. On 16 November 1776, she stepped out of her familiar role as camp follower and became a combatant in the Battle of Fort Washington, New York. She assisted her husband as he and his crew loaded and fired their cannon into waves of attacking Hessian soldiers. John Corbin died during the enemy assault, and Margaret Corbin immediately took his place at the cannon until she fell with severe wounds to her jaw, chest, and left arm. Unable to flee, she became a prisoner when the fort fell, but the British paroled her soon afterward. Largely incapacitated by her wounds, she joined the Corps of Invalids and served for a time at West Point. On 6 July 1779, the congressional Board of War granted Margaret Corbin a lifelong pension in recognition of her military service, making her the first woman to receive such compensation from Congress.

"The shooting of Major Pitcairn (who had shed the first blood at Lexington) by the colored soldier Salem." print, c. 1851
(*New York Public Library Digital Collections*)

About a fourth of the militia in Massachusetts were **Minutemen.** Although laws required all adult males to serve in the militia, Minutemen were volunteers who acted as a highly mobile, rapid deployment force. The militia trained several times a year at most, whereas Minutemen typically trained two or three times a week. They had to be physically fit and no more than thirty years old, and were required to keep their firearms and equipment with them at all times. As the name suggests, they had to be ready to march at a minute's notice. Minutemen fought the British at Lexington and Concord and Bunker Hill, and they took part in the siege of Boston.

Some Minutemen were African Americans. Perhaps the most famous is **Pvt. Peter Salem**. Born into slavery in Massachusetts, his surname might be the hometown of his first owner. When his second owner became a major in the Continental Army, he freed Salem so he could enlist in the militia. During the Revolutionary War, Salem fought alongside other black Minutemen such as Alexander Ames, Seymour Burr, Titus Coburn, and

Salem Poor. Historians often credit Peter Salem with mortally wounding British Maj. John Pitcairn in the Battle of Bunker Hill. Pitcairn's death and more than 1,000 other British casualties made Bunker Hill a costly victory for the mother country.

After his initial militia enlistment expired, Salem reenlisted for one year in the 4th Continental Regiment on 1 January 1776. He served in the New York Campaign and fought in the Battle of Trenton. Reenlisting for a further three years on New Year's Day 1777, he fought at Saratoga, Monmouth Courthouse, and Stony Point. Salem then enlisted a fourth and final time, serving from 1 January to 1 March 1780.

Peter Francisco's gallant action with nine of Tarleton's cavalry in sight of a troop of four hundred men by James Warrell, approximately 1831
(*Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division*)

Originally from the Azores, Portugal, **Pvt. Peter Francisco** stood six-and-a-half feet tall, which led to his nickname of the "Virginia Giant." Given his towering stature, it is hardly surprising that various accounts of his exploits portray him as larger than life. Francisco enlisted in the 10th Virginia Regiment in late 1776. In 1777, he fought at Brandywine, Germantown, and Fort Mifflin. He was with the Army at Valley Forge and then fought at Monmouth Courthouse in June 1778, where a musket ball struck him in his right thigh. After recuperating, Francisco helped storm the British fortress at Stony Point in July 1779 and suffered a second wound—a bayonet gash across his abdomen. During his recovery, Francisco's enlistment expired, and he returned to Virginia.

Growing restless, he joined a militia regiment led by Col. William Mayo. The unit headed to South Carolina and fought at Camden in August

1780. Francisco reportedly saved Mayo's life by firing "a ball and three buckshot" into a British soldier who was about to bayonet the colonel. Returning home to Virginia, Francisco once more reenlisted, serving with a militia cavalry unit that later joined a Continental mounted force led by Lt. Col. William Washington, a second cousin of the commander in chief.

Francisco received a third wound, a deep bayonet cut in his thigh, during a cavalry charge at Guilford Courthouse, but he continued to fight. "When leaving the Battle ground," his commanding officer recalled, "he was very Bloody [as] also was his Sword from point to hilt." Several months later, Francisco, nearing his home in Amelia County, Virginia, "fell in" with a patrol of Tarleton's British cavalry at a roadside tavern. Though unarmed, he seized a British soldier's sword and killed him and then "wounded and drove off the others." According to Francisco, "That is the last favor I ever did the British." This incident apparently marked the end of Francisco's military service. Though not yet twenty-one, the "Virginia Giant" had compiled a brilliant combat record.

The American Crisis was a series of sixteen pamphlets written from 1776 to 1783 by author-philosopher Thomas Paine. The first installment appeared in the *Pennsylvania Journal* on 19 December 1776, just one week before the Battle of Trenton. Paine had written his paper while accompanying Washington's Army during its retreat through New Jersey. Troop morale had never been lower. Aware that the patriot cause was on the verge of collapse, Paine sought to inspire his readers to look beyond their present difficulties and continue the struggle against their oppressor, King George III. "Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered," he wrote, "yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph." Washington had the entire text read aloud to his soldiers on 23 December, and the opening sentence became the Army's maxim on the march to Trenton: "These are the times that try men's souls."

"*The American Crisis* by the author of *Common Sense* [Thomas Paine]" (*Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division*)

J. STRONG

The American CRISIS.

By the Author of COMMON SENSE.

THESE are the times that try mens ſouls: The ſummer ſoldier and the ſunſhine patriot will, in this criſis, ſhrink from the ſervice of his country; but he that ſtands it now, deſerves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not eaſily conquered; yet we have this conſolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we eſteem too lightly: 'Tis dearneſs only that gives every thing its value. Heaven knows how to ſet a proper price upon its goods; and it would be ſtrange indeed, if ſo celeſtial an article as FREEDOM ſhould not be highly rated. Britain, with an army to enforce her tyranny, has declared that ſhe has a right *(not only to* TAX) but "TO BIND us IN ALL CASES WHATSOEVER," and what is binding *bound in that manner*, is not ſlavery, then is there not ſuch thing as ſlavery upon earth. Even the expreſſion is impious, for ſo unlimited a power can belong only to GOD.

Whether the independence of the Continent was declared too ſoon, or delayed too long, I will not now enter into as an argument: my own ſimple opinion is, that had it been eight months earlier, it would have been much better. We did not make a proper uſe of laſt winter, neither could we, while we were in a dependent ſtate. However, the fault, if it were one, was all our own; we have none to blame but ourſelves *. But no great deal is loſt yet; all that Howe has been doing for this month paſt is rather a ravage than a conqueſt, which the ſpirit of the Jerſeys a year ago would have quickly repulſed, and which time and a little reſolution will ſoon recover.

I

* "*The preſent winter*" (*meaning the laſt*) "*is worth an age, if rightly employed, but if loſt, or neglected, the whole continent will partake of the evil; and there is no puniſhment that man does not deſerve, be he who, or what, or where he will, that may be the means of ſacrificing a ſeaſon ſo precious and uſeful.*"

COMMON SENSE.

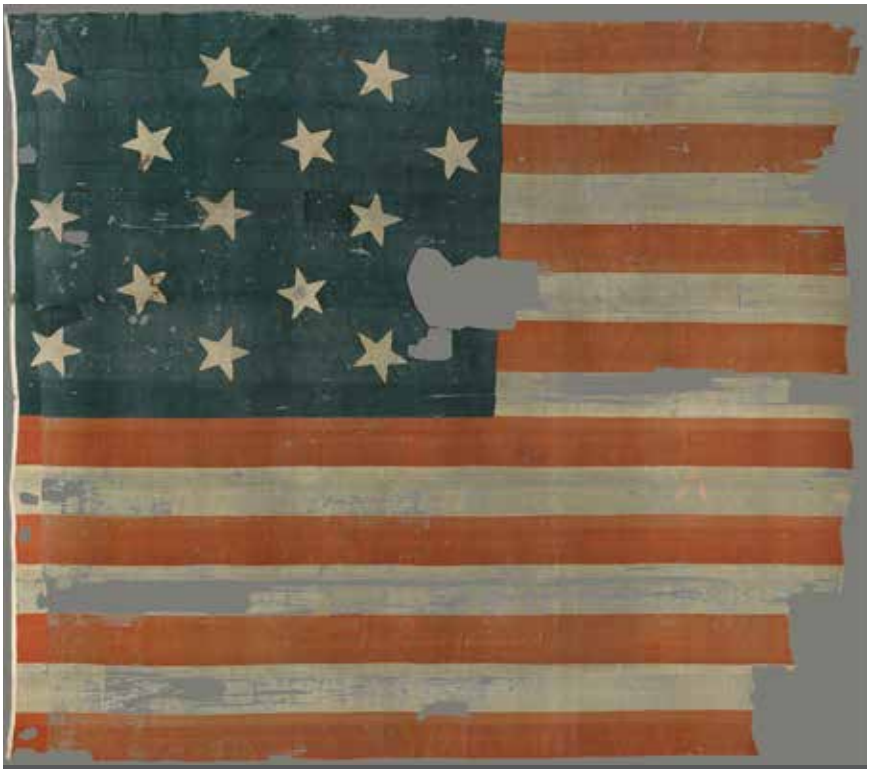
Nicknamed "Old Hickory" by his men because of his toughness, **Maj. Gen. Andrew Jackson** displayed innate command ability during the War of 1812. Despite a lack of military training and experience, as a Tennessee militia commander he waged a five-month campaign against the Creek nation. It culminated in a decisive victory at Horseshoe Bend, in present-day Alabama, in March 1814. The battle made Jackson a national hero, and he received a promotion to major general in the U.S. Army a few months later. Having defeated the Creeks, Jackson shifted his attention to the British, who had established a base at Spanish-occupied Pensacola, Florida. On 7 November, he captured Pensacola after a brief skirmish in which the British and Creek force fled and the Spanish garrison surrendered. Learning that the British had sailed to Louisiana, Jackson led his command overland in pursuit. In January 1815, he defeated the British at New Orleans. The battle ended the War of 1812 on a triumphant note, and it cemented Jackson's national reputation.

In March 1818, Jackson became involved in the First Seminole War. Acting under orders from Secretary of War John C. Calhoun, he invaded Spanish Florida in retaliation for Seminole cross-border raids. Jackson's actions in Florida created an international incident, but the repercussions were short-lived. Spain ceded Florida to the United States in 1819, and Jackson went on to serve two terms as the country's seventh president.

General Andrew Jackson by John Wesley Jarvis, c. 1819
(*Metropolitan Museum of Art*)

Charleville smoothbore musket
(*National Museum of the U.S. Army*)

Since 1717, the **Charleville smoothbore musket** had served as the French Army's standard infantry weapon. It was somewhat lighter and more accurate than the British "Brown Bess" musket, which saw widespread use in the Continental Army. When American diplomat Silas Deane traveled to France in 1776 seeking financial aid, the French responded with a generous gift that included thousands of Charleville muskets. By the time of the Franco-American alliance in 1778, the Model 1766 Charleville—boasting a .69-caliber bore and a 15-inch bayonet—vied with the Brown Bess as the Americans' preferred firearm. After the war, the Charleville served as the prototype for the American-made Springfield Model 1795 smoothbore musket, which in turn became the U.S. Army's standard infantry weapon in the War of 1812.



When the "Star-Spangled Banner" flew over Fort McHenry in September 1814, it measured 30 feet by 42 feet. Because of aging and the loss of numerous pieces of fabric snipped off as souvenirs, the flag now measures 30 feet by 34 feet. (*National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution*)

After its victory at Bladensburg, Maryland, and its capture and burning of Washington, D.C., on 24 August 1814, the British expeditionary force commanded by Maj. Gen. Robert Ross sailed north to its next target: the city of Baltimore. On 13 September, the British fleet began its attack on Fort McHenry, a key stronghold of American defenses. The garrison consisted of a mixed force of 1,000 U.S. regulars and militia under Maj. George Armistead. For most of the rainy night, the British pounded the fort with more than 1,500 rockets, shells, and cannonballs.

A thirty-five-year-old lawyer named Francis Scott Key witnessed the bombardment from a ship about 2.5 miles from the fort. Throughout the barrage, he observed that the fort's small storm flag continued to fly, but he knew that the fate of Fort McHenry would not be revealed until dawn, when the garrison routinely replaced the storm flag with a large fifteen-

star-and-fifteen-stripe U.S. flag. Much to his delight, the **"Star-Spangled Banner"** made its appearance at sunrise, signaling that the Americans had prevailed. Key immediately began to jot down a poem that he titled, "Defence of Fort M'Henry," from which sprang the future national anthem of the United States.

Badge of Military Merit presented to Sgt. Elijah Churchill
(*Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site*)

On 7 August 1782, General Washington issued an order announcing the **Badge of Military Merit**, an award for soldiers who displayed "not only instances of unusual gallantry in battle, but also extraordinary fidelity and essential service in any way." Designed by Washington himself, the Badge was heart-shaped, made of purple cloth or silk, and bordered by a laurel wreath with the word "Merit" emblazoned across the center. The commanding general intended the badge to honor the lower ranks, a distinction unknown in European armies of the time. Records indicate that only three soldiers—all sergeants attached to regiments of the Connecticut Continental Line—received the Badge of Military Merit: Daniel Bissell, William Brown, and Elijah Churchill. General Washington presented badges to Brown and Churchill at Newburgh, New York, on 3 May 1783. Bissell received his badge on 10 June. After the Revolutionary War, the badge fell into disuse, but the Army never abolished it. In 1932, the War Department introduced the Purple Heart Medal and designated it as the official successor to the Badge of Military Merit.

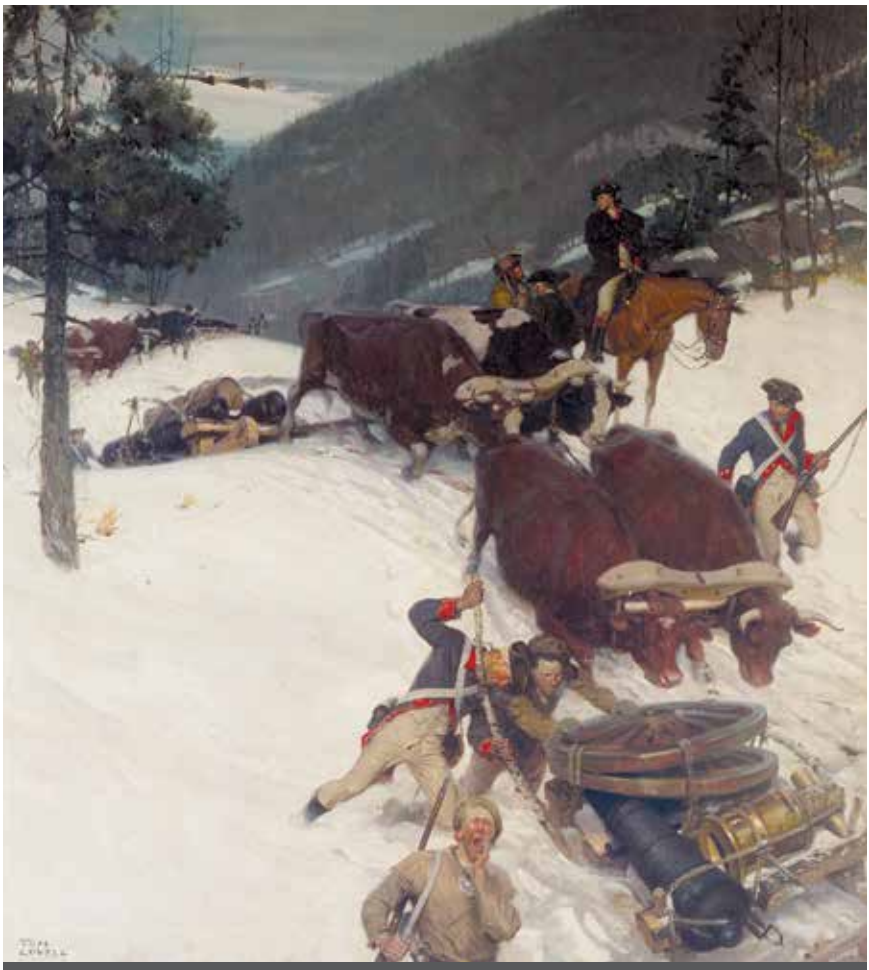
Washington Presenting Badges of Military Merit at Newburgh
by H. Charles McBarron Jr. (*Army Art Collection*)

Portrait of Henry Knox (1750–1806), pictured as a major general, by Charles Willson Peale, c. 1784 (*Philadelphia Museum of Art*)

On 16 November 1775, Col. Henry Knox left Boston for Fort Ticonderoga, roughly 300 miles to the northwest, to retrieve a special cargo. A militia force led by Benedict Arnold and Ethan Allen—including Allen's Green Mountain Boys—had recently captured the fort and its artillery. Knox had proposed to General Washington that he haul the **guns of Fort Ticonderoga** to Boston to use in the city's siege. Disregarding numerous objections that such a feat was impossible, Washington sent Knox on his mission. Upon his arrival at the fort, Knox chose fifty-nine mortars and cannons; soldiers and civilians strapped the guns to forty-two sleds using a half-mile of rope. Knox's "Noble train of Artillery," as he called it, weighed in at 60 tons.

The trek to Boston began on 9 December, and it involved traversing the Berkshire Mountains and crossing the Hudson River four times. Cannons sometimes crashed through the river's ice, but the crews lost no guns. Knox's artillery train reached the Continental Army's camp outside Boston on 27 January 1776.

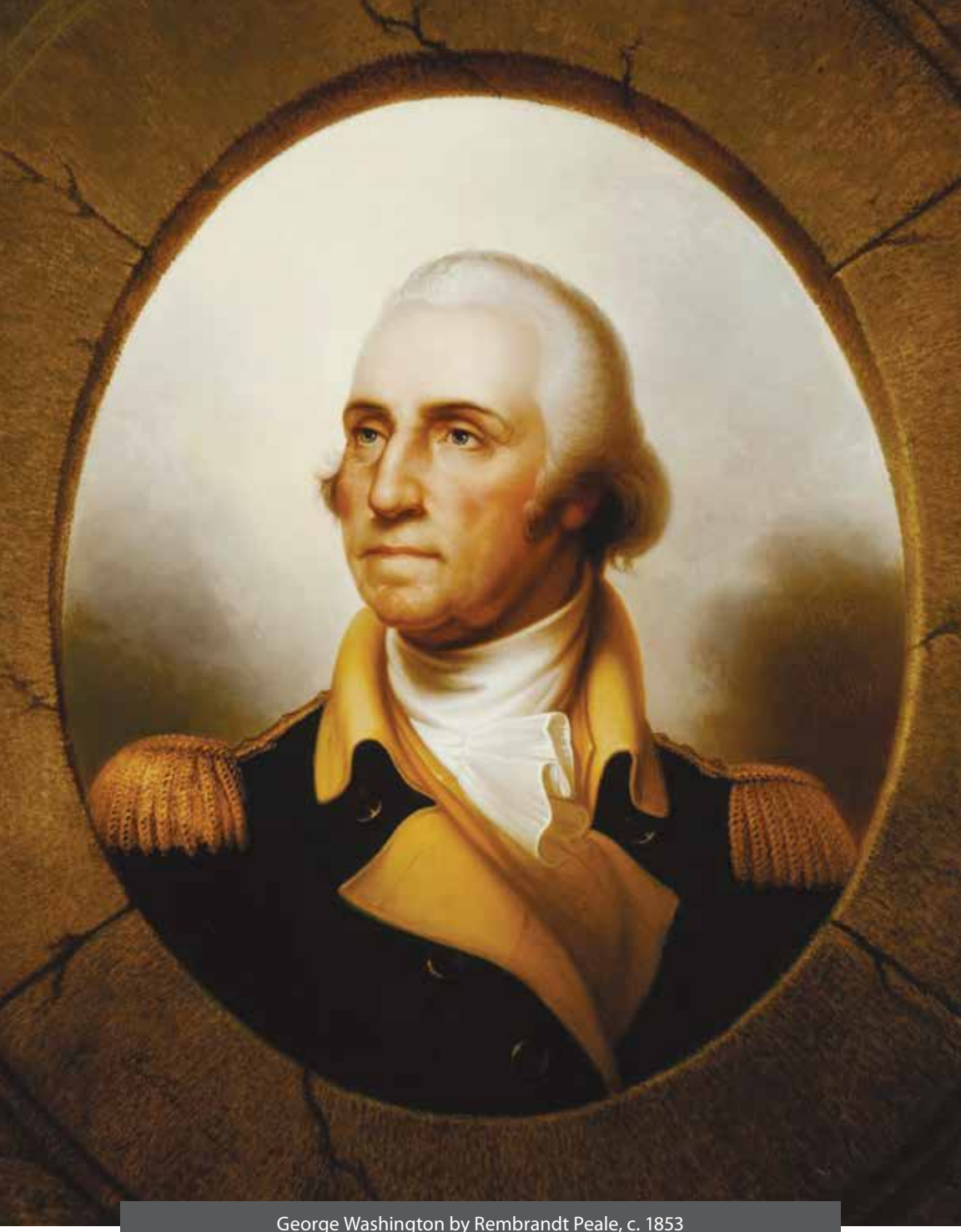
Knox cannon hauled from Fort Ticonderoga to Boston (*National Museum of the U.S. Army*)



As his guns passed through the Berkshires, Knox wrote, "[We] have climbed mountains from which we might almost have seen all the Kingdoms of the Earth." *The Noble Train of Artillery* by Tom Lovell, 1946 (*Fort Ticonderoga National Historic Landmark*)

The 300-mile journey had taken almost two months. Soon afterward, the Americans placed the guns on Dorchester Heights overlooking the city and the harbor. Realizing that their position was untenable, the British evacuated Boston on 17 March. This early victory bolstered patriot morale, and it called attention to Henry Knox as a man of ability. He served as General Washington's chief artillery officer for the remainder of the war and later became President Washington's secretary of war.

On 15 March 1783, as the Continental Army emerged from its final winter camp at Newburgh, New York, General Washington made a surprise appearance at a meeting of Army officers. He sought to calm their anger and frustration over the failure of Congress to honor its promise of long overdue back pay. An anonymous letter calling for an ultimatum to Congress circulated throughout the Army and alerted Washington to the crisis and possible coup, known as the **Newburgh Conspiracy**. At the meeting, Washington appealed to the officers' patriotism and asked them to be patient. At the close of his speech, he pulled a letter from his breast pocket that a member of Congress had sent him. He stared at the paper for a moment and then fumbled for a pair of spectacles. "Gentlemen, you must pardon me," Washington began. "I have grown old in the service of my country and now find that I am growing blind." At that moment, the bond between Washington and his officers became evident, as the eyes of nearly everyone in the room filled with tears. Minutes later, the officers cast a unanimous vote of confidence in Congress and their commander in chief. There would be no coup. Instead of a military dictatorship, the new nation would be a democracy. The Army's final victory of the Revolutionary War proved to be a bloodless one.



George Washington by Rembrandt Peale, c. 1853
(*National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution*)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